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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/673,871	09/29/2003	Kirk Price	HSJ920030184US2	1360

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EXAMINER

KAPADIA, VARSHA A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2651

DATE MAILED: 03/22/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/673,871

Applicant(s)

PRICE ET AL.

Examiner

Varsha A Kapadia

Art Unit

2651

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 6 and 7 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-5 and 8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) 2 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 29 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2/11/05.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

Information Disclosure

The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 9/29/03 and 2/11/05 are in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the examiner is considering the information disclosure statement.

Claim Objection

The language recited in claim 8 is duplicate of the language in claim 5. Both claims depend on the same independent claim 1 and therefore do not further limit the claimed limitations. Appropriate corrections are respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

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Claims 1, 3-5 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Tamura et al (6,570,727).

With regards to claim 1, Tamura et al discloses a method of erasing a magnetic disk in a hard drive (see 6-7, 9 and disclosure thereof) comprising steps of:

Providing a disk erase apparatus having a magnetic gap with a high strength magnetic field (see figs. 4 and 8 element 400 and disclosure thereof), and a hard disk drive having an enclosure (see figs. 1-3, 6 disclosure thereof, col.3 lines 30-37 and col.2 lines 13-16) as claimed.

Configuring the disk region with an axial thickness that is less than an axial thickness of the enclosure (see fig. 6 disk, the base of the enclosure, col.3 lines 30-37 and col.2 lines 13-16). Inserting the hard drive into the erase apparatus as claimed (see fig. 6B, fig.7 element 706 and disclosure thereof).

Rotating the disk (see fig. 7 elements 702 and 712).

Erasing the disk while the disk is located in the drive (see col.4 lines 26-34).

Removing the hard drive from the erase apparatus (see col.4 lines 26-34).

With regards to claim 3, Tamura et al discloses the enclosure with a base and a cover as claimed (see col.3 lines 30-37 and col.4 lines 34-39).

With regards to claim 4, see col.4 lines 26-34.

With regards to claims 5 and 8, see Tamura et al on col.3 lines 48-63 and col.4 lines 18-26.

Prior Art Cited

Reference to Hasegawa et al (2004/0051989 A1) cited as of interest.

Reference to Kitahori et al (2002/0021521 A1) cited as of interest.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 6-7 allowed.

Claim 2 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 2 and 6-7 differs from the prior art of record. Prior art of record discloses the method of erasing a magnetic disk in a disk drive as described above in this office action, but fails to further include/specify that the magnetic gap with an axial dimension that is greater than the axial thickness of the disk region and less than the axial thickness of the enclosure, as specifically recited by the applicant in the claimed invention.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Varsha A Kapadia whose telephone number is (571)272-7557. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon Tue and Thurs. from 6:30 AM to 2:00 PM.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Hudspeth can be reached on 571 272-7843. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



VK



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